



Southern California Association of Governments

Human Resources

818 West 7th Street, 12th Floor, Los Angeles, California 90017 • (213) 236-1910 • www.scag.ca.gov

CHIEF ECONOMIST #276

Salary Range: \$69,575 - \$104,357 annually

Typical Hiring Range: \$69,575 - \$86,942 annually

Open until Filled. Next Review of Applications: Friday, September 22, 2006

THE POSITION

This position is responsible for leading, planning, and coordinating the activities and operations of the economic analysis and policy development program within the Community Development Division. The employee will oversee the analysis of key regional policies, initiatives, and projects including transportation, land use, and water policies for their economic development implications. The employee will also lead the development of an external economic policy public relations program for SCAG and act as a public spokesperson.

OTHER SIGNIFICANT FUNCTIONS INCLUDE:

- Analyze approved regional plans (e.g. Regional Transportation Plan, Compass Blueprint Vision, Goods Movement Action Plan) to develop regional economic policy programs.
- Develop an insightful and exciting "economic story" that is consistent with the regional economic program and policies.
- Market the economic "story" on a local, regional, state, and national basis so that SCAG is recognized as a regional economic expert and is called on frequently for expertise in the field.
- Evaluate regional plans, programs, strategies, and periodic reports to refocus the regional economic program and develop new tools to deliver information and tell the "economic story."
- Provide input, guidance, and advice on economic trends and their potential impacts to projects in other divisions and outside the department.
- Communicate SCAG policy on regional economics in written and oral form to senior management, the Regional Council, Policy Committees, outside public and private organizations, and local, state, and federal government.
- Represent the Agency in international matters at Federal, State, and local levels.
- Develop and maintain local, regional, state and national contacts to develop professional agency relationships and position SCAG in these contexts of external economic policy that may impact regional efforts.
- Organize a major annual SCAG economic conference; organize meetings and events.
- Staff committees, subcommittees, ad hoc working groups, and task forces created by the Regional Council to support and facilitate its work.

- Review, evaluate, and comment on recommendations of senior management and other staff, work products and plans, and work by outside experts.
- Provide lead supervision and coordinate project and program activities for the economic analysis program; oversee and participate in project management planning, project plan, annual work plan, and project summary reports.
- Participate in the development and implementation of goals, objectives, policies, and priorities for economic analysis; participate in strategic planning to identify key projects and strategic issues.
- Provide lead supervision, coordination, and review of the work plan for economic analysis; meet with staff to identify and resolve problems; assign work activities and projects; monitor work flow; review and evaluate work products, methods and procedures.

IDEAL CANDIDATE QUALITIES

- Experience in developing economic policy programs
- Demonstrated knowledge of the role of economics in achieving land use plans
- Demonstrated knowledge of the role of economics in business planning for goods movement
- Ability to link economic expertise with regional planning
- Experience in promoting an agency message on a local, regional, statewide and national level

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

Education, Training, and Experience: Equivalent to a Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university with major course work in economics or a related field, and seven years of responsible economic analysis experience. A Master's degree is desirable.

Knowledge of: Operational characteristics, services, and activities of an economic analysis program; modern and complex principles and practices of urban and regional economics; advanced economic theory and concepts; advanced statistical principles and concepts; econometric models and concepts; demographics and demographic forecasting techniques; economic impact analysis and use of input-output models in regional planning; principles of budget preparation and control; principles of supervision and training; pertinent Federal, State, and local laws, codes, and regulations.

Ability to: analyze economic and demographic data problems, identify alternative solutions, project consequences of proposed actions, and implement recommendation in support of goals; interpret and apply the policies, procedures, laws, codes, and regulations pertaining to economic and demographic data programs and functions.

Special Requirements: Ability to work in a standard office environment; ability to travel to different sites and locations; possession of, or ability to obtain, an appropriate, valid driver's license.

APPLICATION AND SELECTION PROCEDURE

Applicants **should** submit a completed SCAG application and resume to:

Southern California Association of Governments
Attn: Human Resources Office
818 West 7th Street, 12th Floor, LA., CA 90017
(213) 236-1910 (213) 630-1493 fax
www.scag.ca.gov

Applications will be accepted on a continuous basis until SCAG's needs are met. This recruitment may close at any time without prior notice.

Qualified applicants will be invited to participate in the selection process based on the application and resume submitted. Applicants must clearly demonstrate through their application materials that they meet the qualifications listed above. All applicants who meet the minimum qualifications are not guaranteed advancement through subsequent phases of the selection process. The selection process may consist of an application screening, oral presentation, and oral board interview.

EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION

- Before employment, applicants will be required to provide documentation that verifies their proof of eligibility to work in the United States.
- Reference checking will be done prior to hire. A thorough background check including a review of criminal history, DMV report, financial history, and pre-employment physical may be conducted for certain classifications.
- Employees are required to serve a twelve-month probationary period. Manager and director positions are employed through an annual contract.

EMPLOYEE PROGRAMS AND BENEFITS

- **Insurance Coverage:** Employees may choose from two HMO and two PPO CalPERS health plans and two dental plans. SCAG contributes \$550/month towards insurance premiums with the cost difference paid out in cash. Vision insurance is provided at no cost to employees. Life insurance in the amount of \$50,000 is provided by employer. Supplemental life insurance is available at a minimal cost to the employee. Short-term and long-term disability insurance plans are provided by SCAG.
- **Retirement:** Employees become members of the Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS) 2% @ 55 plan. SCAG pays the employee's 7% contribution. ICMA and MetLife 457 deferred compensation plans are available. SCAG does not participate in Social Security.

- **Holidays:** A total of 13 paid holidays – 9 designated and 4 floating – are provided annually.
- **Vacation:** Ten to twenty days per year, depending on length of service with SCAG.
- **Sick Leave:** Employees earn sick leave at the rate of one day per month.
- **Health, Dependent Care, and Parking Reimbursement Account:** A tax-exempt savings plan is offered to pay eligible expenses associated with health, dependent care, and parking.
- **Rideshare/Transportation Incentive Program:** SCAG pays \$35 per month towards carpool expenses, \$155 per month towards vanpool, bus or a monthly MetroLink pass. In order to receive this benefit, employees must utilize one of the listed options at least 13 days per month.
- **Flexible Time/Modified Work Week:** Some employees may work a modified 9-80 work schedule, with every other Friday off. SCAG offers a flexible work schedule to allow employees some flexibility on daily work hours.
- **Other Benefits:** SCAG offers credit union membership in the E-Central Credit Union. Employees may have their paychecks automatically deposited. A tuition reimbursement program is offered to employees.

THE ORGANIZATION

The Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) is a Council of Governments and the largest regional planning agency in the nation, functioning as the Metropolitan Planning Organization for six counties established in 1965. SCAG develops long-term solutions for regional challenges such as transportation, air quality, housing, growth, hazardous waste, and water quality. SCAG works with cities, counties, and public agencies in the region to develop plans and strategies and action plans to address issues of regional and sub-regional concern and to help local agencies meet Federal and State planning mandates. SCAG also serves as a center for information exchange on a broad range of transportation, growth management, environmental, infrastructure, and institutional issues. The SCAG region includes six counties, one hundred eighty-seven cities, 38,000 square miles, a population of 17 million, and the 10th largest world economy.

THE LOCATION

The main SCAG offices are located in bustling downtown Los Angeles (LA). LA is located on the beautiful California Coast, and offers a year-round Mediterranean climate. The area is known for its cultural venues, sports centers, garment and jewelry districts, high-rise buildings, shopping, tourist attractions, fine restaurants, zoos, and museums. It is home to such professional sports organizations as the L.A. Lakers, Clippers, Sparks, Kings, and Dodgers. Downtown L.A. is easily accessible by MetroLink train, underground Metro, and bus.

EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

SCAG is an equal employment opportunity employer. All personnel policies and programs are administered without regards to race, color, religion, political belief, age, national origin, sex, disability, cultural background, or sexual orientation. If you require assistance to participate in this recruitment, please call the Human Resources Office at (213) 236-1931.